

The Union Truth

THE TRUTH KEEPS MARCHING ON



Contents

Letters to the Editor . . .	3	Lincoln Assassination . . .	3
Battle of Gettysburg . . .	2	Sherman's March	2
The Truth Opinion	4	Kate Chopin	5



Destruction of the Depots, Public Buildings, and Factories in Atlanta, GA (1864)

Sherman Completes March To the Sea

By: Haley Thompson

The March to the Sea by Major General William T. Sherman commenced on November 15, 1864 and ended with the capture of Savannah, GA on December 22. After Sherman’s successful campaign to capture Atlanta, he planned a march against Savannah. Seeking to destroy Southern economic welfare, Sherman intended for this march to eliminate any recourses that could be used by Confederate forces. After getting approval of his plan by General Ulysses S. Grant, Sherman and his men departed Atlanta, via two different routes on November 15.

As Sherman’s men marched through Georgia, they systematically destroyed any type of agricultural plants, manufacturing buildings, and railroads that crossed their path. After the surrender of Savannah on December 22, Sherman sent a telegraph to President Lincoln, “I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the City of Savannah, with one hundred and fifty guns and plenty of ammunition, also about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton.”

Following the tremendous success of his march through Georgia, Sherman finished his final campaign of the war by traveling through the Carolinas, before receiving another surrender by Confederate General Johnston on April 26.



14th and 20th Corps leaving Atlanta (1864)

Union Defeats Rebels at Gettysburg

By: Haley Thompson

The first day of battle began on July 1, 1863, when Confederate troops led by General Robert E. Lee stumbled into Union troops led by George Meade in small town Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Both Generals knew that fighting could not be avoided and battle broke out. This seemed to be a perfect opportunity for General Lee to follow his instructions by the Confederate government to take the offensive and attack Northern soil in order to solidify the North’s recognition of the Confederacy.

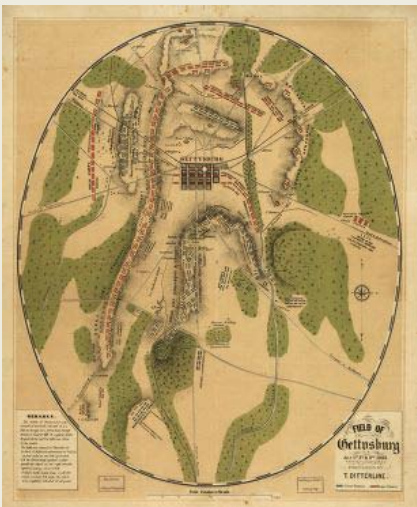
After numerous and draining hours of battle our Northern soldiers were able to hold strategic positions on Cemetery Hill. Our Union forces used Day two of battle as a set-up for the third day of the battle. Rebel General’s Longstreet and Hood acquired high ground at the Peach Orchard and Little Round Top. They held these key positions throughout the night waiting for the last important day of battle.

July 3, 1863 was, by far, the most dramatic day of battle. Confederate General George E. Pickett led a gallant, but hopeless, charge against the Union forces. Pickett’s drive tried to charge across the open field at Cemetery Ridge, but our Union fire stopped him.

Although our Union forces got a hard fought and well-deserved victory both sides suffered devastating losses. Meade’s casualties and injuries numbered 23,000 and Lee’s about 25,000.

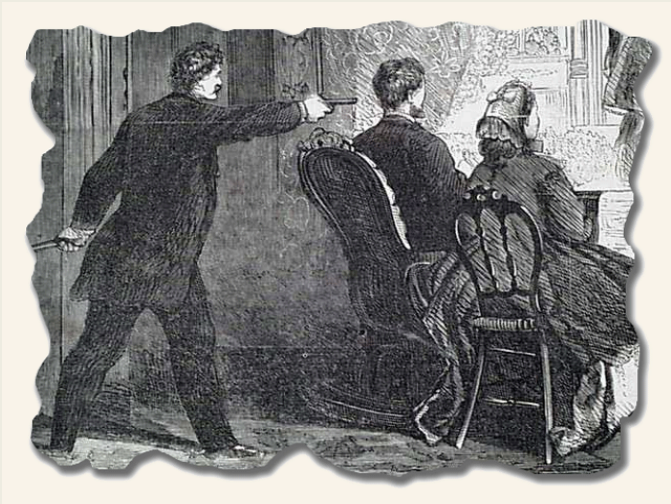


Dead Soldiers at Gettysburg



Gettysburg Battle Map

PRESIDENT LINCOLN ASSASSINATED



President Lincoln Shot and Killed

Killed by the Rebel John Wilkes Booth

By: Haley Thompson

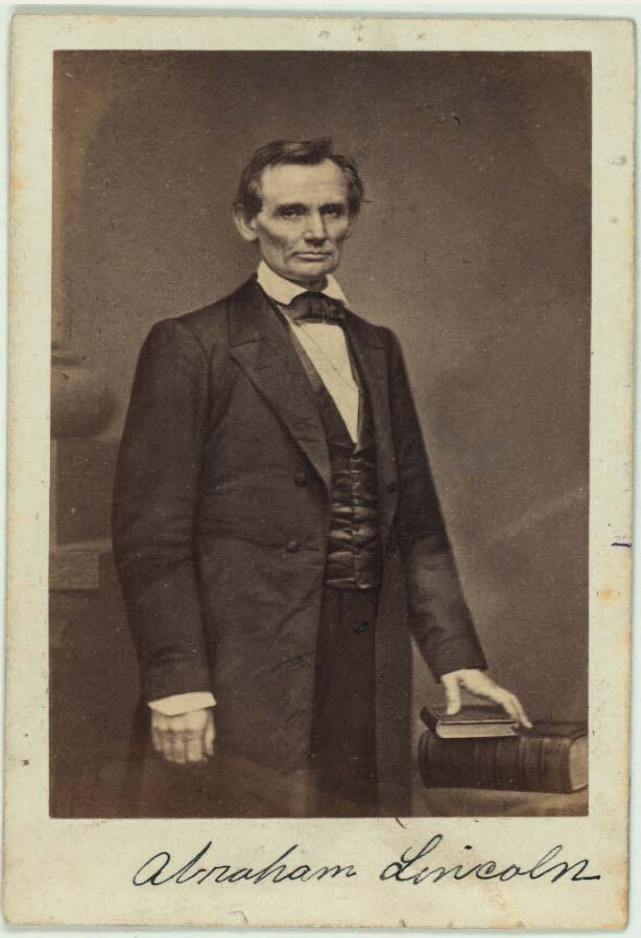
On April 14, 1865, our nation’s beloved president, Abraham Lincoln, was tragically shot and killed.

The premeditated attack occurred at Ford’s Theatre, while the president was enjoying the play “Our American Cousin”. Lincoln was brutally assassinated by Confederate sympathizer John Wilkes Booth. Booth hated the Union and contrived two illegitimate reasons for killing the President. He blamed Lincoln for the South’s struggles and hardships and believed that by assassinating the President the South would fully realize its status as an independent nation.

Unfortunately President Lincoln, despite swift and excellent medical care from doctors, passed away on the morning of April 15, 1865. After Booth’s dramatic escape from Ford’s Theater, he was finally and rightfully caught and hanged on April 26, 1865. Booth’s cowardly accomplices Marry Surratt, Lewis Powell, David Herold, and George Atzerodt where also convicted and hanged on July 7, 1865.



John Wilkes Booth



President Abraham Lincoln

The Truth Opinion

One Nation Under God

By: Haley Thompson - Union Truth Editor

With his final statement in his 2nd Inaugural Address, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations", President Lincoln set the right tone for the reconciliation of the Confederate states back into the Union.

With a solemn and costly victory almost in hand over our Southern brothers, we must heed this good advice and set aside the bitterness and hatred that has divided our country over the last four years. Our cherished dead that displayed the last full measure of devotion at Gettysburg, Antietam, Bull Run, and Chickamauga to the great and glorious cause of preserving the vision of our founders of a great nation in which all men are created equal to pursue happiness deserve our similar devotion to restoring the Union they died to preserve.

I know many of my Union friends prefer to defer reconciliation until all remnants of the Confederacy and slavery are long gone. My friends passionately argue this approach will ensure the South will never have the means or will to rise again against the Union. But, Lincoln's premise is true. Even the most ardent rebel leaders could not have envisioned, nor desired, such a long and costly war. Knowing that many in the South would not have succeeded at such a price, it is better to welcome our war torn brothers back into Union and heal the unintended wounds inflicted on a divided nation.

With the Emancipation Proclamation, Louisiana Plan, and Freedman's Bureau Act, the President has already taken the vital first steps. Let us support the swift and steady reunion of the United States of America - one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Letters to the Editor

Fugitive Slave Act Delays Freedom

The Fugitive Slave Act passed by Congress on September 18, 1850 is intended to serve as a compromise between southern slaveholders and northern free-soilers. The act unjustly requires that all runaway slaves must be returned to their masters. This ill-advised law will impede righteous progress towards abolishing slavery. If we are honestly fighting for the freedom of slaves, why would we sign a law that puts them right back in the position of imprisonment and captivity? As northerners must stand up and not let the South and their slave catchers scare us. Instead we must do everything in our power to fulfill our solemn promise of ordained freedom to these runaway slaves.

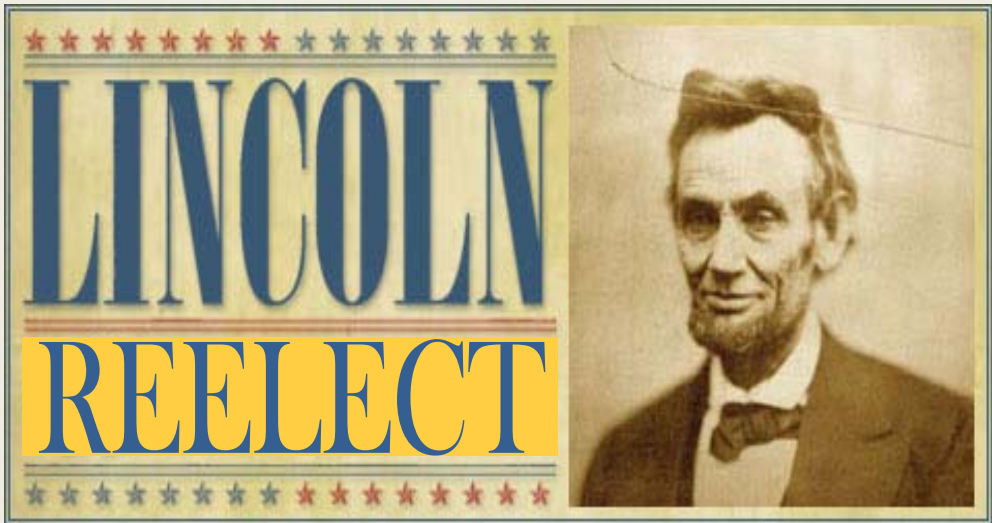
Haley Thompson, New York

Ironic Story of the Hour

Kate Chopin masterfully uses irony in her latest short story - *The Story of an Hour* to surprise and entertain us. Mrs. Mallard, the story's main character, receives the news of her husband's accidental death and retreats alone to her room to supposedly mourn the loss of her dear husband. Behind closed doors she unexpectedly reveals that she is actually experiencing a true sense of relief and freedom for the first time in years. Mallard describes the weather as bright, joyful, and warm in sharp contrast with the gloom and despair one would expect after the loss of a loved one.

After contemplating the hopeful possibilities of her new life free of the shackles of a bad marriage, she learns the reports of her husband's death are a mistake and he is still alive. In the story's final ironic twist, she abruptly dies dreading the returning to her subservient life as her friends mistakenly declare her passing due to the unbridled joy of reuniting with her husband.

Haley Thompson, New Jersey



Kate Chopin – American Author

By: Haley Thompson



In this article, I would like to present to you one of America’s best up and coming author, *Kate Chopin*, who may very well be one of America’s great feminists.

Kate Chopin was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1850 to Eliza and Thomas O’Flaherty. She was the third of five children, but she was the only child to live past the age of twenty-five. When Kate was five, she was sent to The Sacred Heart Academy. Only two months later her father tragically died in a train collision. After this calamity Kate returned home to live with her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Kate’s great-grandmother oversaw her education and immersed her into the language, music, and culture of France.

Kate later married Oscar Chopin, a son of a wealthy, cotton-growing family in Louisiana that owned slaves. After their marriage, they lived in New Orleans where she had five boys and two girls. New Orleans proved to be too much for Oscar and they were forced to move back to their old home in Louisiana. Kate and Oscar’s marriage was extremely difficult because of Kate’s non-slavery upbringing and Oscar’s slave derived income. Oscar died of Swamp fever, leaving Kate with the responsibility of seven children. Kate moved back to her hometown of St. Louis and began to write to support herself and her young family.

Kate’s writing career is taking off. She has already published one novel and written over a hundred short stories. Over half of Kate’s writings are set in Louisiana and feature characters drawn from this region. Her first novel, *At Fault*, is a huge success among readers. Her riveting short stories like *A Point at Issue*, *Bayou Folk*, and *Story of an Hour* are a huge success as well. Kate is writing her second novel, *The Awakening*, which I predict will be just as successful as her other writings.

